PRINCIPAL’S REPORT 12.2.2010
YEAR 6 PRESENTATIONS FOR SCHOOL CAPTAIN/VICE CAPTAIN
Congratulations to the Year 6 children who presented speeches before the voting for the School Captain and School Vice Captains. The presentations were extremely good and entertained the students and parents who attended. Thanks family members or supporters who came to witness, encourage and show appreciation for the efforts of the children. The voting results were not available at time of printing but should be announced at Monday’s assembly- and in next week’s newsletter.
**Student Achievement Awards**

**P/1D Hannah B**
**Working Bee**
For being an excellent helper in tidying up our school!

**P/1D Art Award Holly N**
For a brilliant 3D picture of what happens at our school! Well done!

**4/5G Music Award Jay**
For enthusiastic participation in "moving to music" class. Thank you!

**4/5G Declan**
For an excellent start to the year. Thank you for your hard work with your journal writing.

**6R Reilly**
For being a wonderful addition to Upwey Primary School.

**6R Class Award**
First Week
For being a great grade 6 group who show diligence, humour and enthusiasm.

**NEW STAFF MEMBERS-PROFILES**
Staff members have provided a profile statement to introduce themselves. I will gradually introduce all new staff to the school community via profile statements.

**Mr Ben Gallaher** – Class Teacher 4/5G
After completing qualifications in Engineering and Computing, I needed to find a more fulfilling career. I headed abroad and worked as a Camp Counsellor for Camp America. Living with children for 3 months was such a fantastic experience and I loved every minute of it. When I returned, I decided to become a teacher.

I am very fortunate to have such a strong background in ICT and thoroughly enjoy sharing that passion with the students. I love to share all my hobbies and interests with the students. Some of those include; cooking, gardening, martial arts, robotics and discovering how things work. I have received such a warm welcome from the Upwey Primary School Community and I am looking forward to contributing to such a friendly and supportive school.

**Miss Irene Nicola** – Class Teacher 2/3N
My name is Irene Nicola and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working at Upwey Primary this year. I am a graduate of Deakin University where I completed a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary and Secondary). I am extremely passionate about teaching and I have had a widespread experience working in primary schools throughout the course of my studies. I strongly believe that all children can learn and with that belief, children do learn. I look forward to getting to know you all and seeing you at many school events this year!

**Mrs Hayley Warton** – Integration Aide- 2/3N
I am married with three wonderful challenging boys. In my spare time, I go to the Gym or step the thousand steps. I am very excited to be part of Upwey Primary.

**WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS**
It is with pleasure that I welcome Sara (Year 6 in 6R) and Tyler (Year 2 in 2/3N) to Upwey Primary School. They started this week and appear to already have settled in extremely well. Please make them, and family members, feel at home as part of our community.

**FAMILY PICNIC & GAMES EVENING- ALL WELCOME**
The Family Picnic and Games Evening to welcome the school community to the 2010 School Year will be held on Wednesday 17th February from 6:00 pm until about 8:00 pm. All parents, relatives and children are invited to attend. The evening will be organised into dinner at 6:00 on the school oval (bring chairs and rugs). Tribes Games- 6:45. Races and Novelty events- 7:15. Egg Catching competition- 7:45. Everyone is welcome!

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING- FIRST FOR 2010**
As mentioned in last week's newsletter the next School Council Meeting will be held on Monday 1st March in the school staffroom. This meeting will begin with the AGM and finish with an ordinary (not really) meeting of the new school council. Don't forget to get in your nominations if you are able to contribute to School Council this year. We are looking for some new faces! (Not that the old ones are that bad!) Nominations can still be accepted on Monday.

**OUR NEW CLEANERS**
Cleaning contractors Tony & Sharon Jones have added our school to their cleaning contract at Upwey High School. Paul Hammond will take responsibility for cleaning our buildings.

**WELCOME TO OUR NETWORK TEACHING SUPPORT STAFF**
As mentioned last year all the Teaching Support Staff for Dandenong Ranges and Knox Networks are now located in our double storey building rather than being separated at a variety of schools. This is under the new Service Delivery Arrangements for 2010. Staff who work with our children will have very easy access. The staff members will also be travelling to many other schools in the networks so there will be quite a bit of “coming and going”.

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WORKING BEE:
Thanks to the helpers who attended the Working Bee on Sunday 7th February from 9:30- We did heaps of mowing and brushcutting on the slope and now the area is available for playing. Thanks to Nanette, Marshall, Hannah, Judyann, Gordon, Naomi, Jenny, Eric, Kyle, Liam, Sue, David, Annette, Nathan for all your hard work, it is much appreciated.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
The Official Opening of the School Year will be held on Monday 1st March from 2:30 to 3:30. The School Captains/Vice Captains, House Captains/Vice Captains and Junior School Council representatives will be invested during this ceremony. Parents are welcome to attend this formal occasion.

BRAIN FOOD & PLAY LUNCH
It would be much appreciated if all parents could support the application of Brain Food Time (approximately 10 am each day) by providing children with fruit, seeds or vegetable on a daily basis. It would also be appreciated if all children could be provided with a play lunch/snack to help them get through the time until lunch. This could also involve healthy food as well as occasional treats.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
NEWSLETTER ON THE WEBSITE
Each week our school newsletter will be added to the school website for parent access and convenience. The weekly edition will go on line by Monday each week. Thanks again Eric for continuing with this job.

POSITIVE PLAY
We have continued with Positive Play for 2010. It is a new element of our Tribes social competencies approach with a Positive Play Award to be presented at each School Assembly for children who have been noted during the week as being positive in their play at lunch recess and playtime.

The two winners of this week’s draw were Cal T (4/5 G) & Asta T (6E). Congratulations!

CARE GROUPS
As part of our Tribes Approach we also hold Care Groups each fortnight. The first session was held today with new children being added to current groups. Care Groups involve Prep to Year 6 mixed groups of children together connecting with the same staff member (who is not their class teacher). We completed Community Circles discussions, Energisers and a short activity. Sessions are held from 12:30-1 pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2010
The schedule for the 2010 School Council election process is as follows:

- Friday 5th February Announce election schedule and call for nominations.
- Friday 12th February Nominations close. Display list of candidates, nominators and seconds.
- Friday 19th February Ballot papers (if required) distributed by this date.
- Friday 26th February Close of ballot.
- Friday 26th February Count ballots and declare results.
- Monday 1st March School Council AGM & School Council Meeting.

So far we have three nominations for positions. This means overall there are still three positions available for any interested parents. Please note that nomination forms for parent and DEECD employee vacancies will be available on request from the office.

SPORT
HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS
Our House Swimming Sports will be held on Friday 19th February at Belgrave Swimming Pool from 12:30 am until about 2:00 pm. Children from Years 3 to 6 will be invited to attend if they have swimming competency. (Can at least swim 30 metres from the deep end to the shallow end, with possibly a little walking in the shallow end!) Any Parent of a Year 2 child who has swimming capabilities mentioned above may contact me regarding involvement if desired. The day will have some competition and fun elements. The school team for the District Swimming Sports will be selected from the results of the House Competition. The District Swimming Sports will be held on Thursday 25th February at Belgrave Pool. Parent helper volunteers are requested for both events. I am still in need of helpers. Please contact me or the office if you are able to assist.

Permission forms were distributed last week. Pick up a notice from the office if required.

COMPETITION OFFER
UNIVERSITY OF NSW-INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS 2010
I am encouraging children to participate in the UNSW – ICAS Competitions for 2010. Only children in Years 3-6 will be given the opportunity to participate. The schedule for each competition is as follows:

- Science- Wednesday 9th June
- Spelling and Writing- Tuesday 22nd June
- Mathematics- Tuesday 17th August
- English- Tuesday 3rd August
- Computer Skills- Tuesday 25th May

The order form for these competitions accompanies this week’s newsletter. Please return with payment as soon as possible if you are interested in your child participating in any of these competitions.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
UPWEY BILLY CART RACES
The Upwey Billy Cart Race will be held on Sunday 28th February in Main St Upwey (Entries close on Monday 22nd Feb). We are seeking applications on behalf of the school as we would like to have an Upwey PS Billy Cart Racing Team. We are planning to have a Hot Dog food stall at the event also.

Footnote: Mr Gallaher has already been checking out the school billy carts and will make some adjustments to ensure they are in peak order for the big race.
UPWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL BILLY CART GRAND PRIX
This annual event is planned for Tuesday 23rd March from 9-1. The PA will be holding a Healthy Lunch on the same day as part of the celebration. Get those billy carts ready. More details later.

REMINDERS
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE—CHANGED STARTING TIME
Changed demands on the Before School Care time, and cost associated with running the BASC 7:00 am starting time, has meant that it has become non viable and as of Monday 8th February Before School Care will begin at 7:30 am for every day of the school week. If any parents require a 7:00 am start on any day this can still be organised with prior arrangement through Sam.

ARCHERY
Active After School Care
Is currently running Archery Classes on a Tuesday after school.
If you would like your child to participate please call the office to book your place.

UPWEY P.S.
KITCHEN GARDEN CLUB
On Mondays’ 1.15pm
All students welcome
“Herb Planting”
With Sue & Sandra
Please meet at the entrance to the Vegie Garden

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Is currently running Archery Classes on a Tuesday after school.
If you would like your child to participate please call the office to book your place.

Education Maintenance Allowance
Information for 2010
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:
• Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
• Be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.
Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (27th Jan 2010 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (12 July 2010).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 26th February 2010 for the first instalment and 6th August 2010 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount for $225 for primary students and $450 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Students turning 16 years in 2010 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

Please contact the School Office for application form and further information.

WANTED
Empty Glass Jars with lids, 375ml—500ml
Please leave them at the Office or in the Library for Jenny
Thank you

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
To our Students
12th Feb - 19th Feb
Jack T
Happy Birthday
to Sage for the 9th Feb
Upwey Tecoma Junior Football Club
REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 28th February
At the Upwey Billy Cart Races
10am—2pm
In the big car park near the Post Office
We invite all current players & families and new future Players for 2010
Players needed: U11, U12, U14, U15
All new player receive Free Shorts and socks.
Please phone 0413 417 737 or email cnyari1@bigpond.com

The Yarra Valley Railway goes to the Movies!
Rochford Wines and the Yarra Valley Railway
Are proud to present a Twilight Movie Night
Friday 5th February 2010
The Princess Bride
Venue: Rochford Winery
Time: Gates open at 7pm, Movie begins at approximately 8:30pm
Cost: $10 per adult, children under 12 are free!
For more information go to www.yvr.com
Hello All,
Well the first few weeks of BASC have been sensational! Plenty of games and Archery was fantastic!

**MONDAY - BEAUTIFUL BEADS**
**TUESDAY - ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL ARCHERY!!**
**WEDNESDAY - DRESS UP DRAMA**
**THURSDAY - ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL MULTI SKILL GAMES**
**FRIDAY - COOKING**

For those of you who aren’t aware, active after school is a government funded program for children who attend after school care to have a chance to have a go and try different sports. This term will be archery, with a qualified coach from Sherbrooke archery club and myself doing multi skill (I am also a qualified active after school coach). Its a great program and a fantastic way to get your children to try out different sports.

Book your places NOW as I expect this activity to fill fast!

Also as of Monday 8th of February before school care will be starting at 7:30am. This is in response to the family surveys that were in the newsletters at the end of last year. If before school care is needed at 7am we are able to do this by appointment but arrangements must be made with either myself or someone in the office by 3:30pm the day before.

I hope that you all enjoy your weekend and see you on Monday.

Sam :)

**FORTNIGHTLY PERMANENT BOOKINGS**

8th Feb—12th Feb etc (and every fortnight there after)

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Children’s name ...........................................................

I understand that by committing to a permanent booking I am required to pay for the booking even though absences may occur.

Signature of parent or guardian ........................................

If you need more space to write, please use the space provided. Thank you.
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